

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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-----113669 280456Z /13

P R 270658Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU
SECSTATE WASHDC 3909

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CANBERRA 5912

CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

STATE FOR EA/ANZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - AUSTRALIA

ATMOSPHERICS:

EARLY IN THE WEEK THE PRESS CARRIED MORE REPORTS ON THE VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY US ATTORNEY-GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL WHO WAS MET BY DEMONSTRATORS IN BOTH HOBART AND MELBOURNE. THOSE WHO DEMONSTRATED WERE FROM THE SOCIALIST WORKERS' PARTY AND JUDGE BELL PUBLICLY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THEIR RIGHT TO DEMONSTRATE.

AUSTRALIA'S DECISION TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF URANIUM TO FINLAND PROMPTED THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY TO STATE THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE HONOURED IF THAT PARTY WERE ELECTED TO GOVERNMENT.

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THE INFLUENTIAL DAILY THE AGE (MELBOURNE) HAS BEEN FEATURING REPORTS ON THE INDONESIAN PRESENCE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE RESULTANT CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT AND A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL PARLIAMENT FROM BOTH MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT US-BUILT-VO-10C AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN USED

BY THE INDONESIANS TO ATTACK VILLAGES ALONG THE BORDER AREA AND RESIDENTS OF AT LEAST ONE PAPUA NEW GUINEA VILLAGE FLED AFTER INDONESIAN TROOPS CROSSED THE BORDER AND DESTROYED THE VILLAGE.

THE RESIGNATION OF WHITE HOUSE ADVISER, DR. BOURNE, WAS WIDELY REPORTED AS HE HAS AUSTRALIAN PARENTS AND LIVED IN THIS COUNTRY FOR SOME TIME.

IT WAS REPORTED TOWARDS THE MIDDLE OF THE PAST WEEK THAT TALKS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND THE US ON REDUCED AIR FARES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BE RESUMED IN WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 28 AND EACH DAY THERE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING A GOVERNMENT STUDY, (NOT YET OFFICIALLY RELEASED), ON THE STATE OF DOMESTIC AIR SERVICES IN THIS COUNTRY..THE REPORT HAS RELEVANCE TO THE US AS COMPARISONS BETWEEN DOMESTIC AIR FARES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS FEATURED IN THE PUBLICITY, WITH THE LATEST REPORTS INDICATING AUSTRALIAN DOMESTIC FARES TO BE 70 PERCENT HIGHER, ON AVERAGE, THAN THE US EQUIVALENT JOURNEYS.

TOWARDS THE END OF THE WEEK IT WAS REPORTED THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA THAT THIS COUNTRY WAS TO HAVE A "US STYLE SECRET SERVICE" CONSISTING OF SPECIALISTS EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH TERRORISTS AND PROTECT AUSTRALIAN AND VISITING V.I.P."S

ALL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS, RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS GAVE MAJOR COVERAGE TO THE PLANNED TAKEOVER OF THE US-OWNED K-MART STORES IN UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS COUNTRY BY AUSTRALIA'S MAJOR RETAILER G.J. COLES LIMITED. THE DEAL WILL INVOLVE 20 PERCENT OF COLES COMING UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE KRESGE GROUP OF THE US AND IS LIKELY TO LEAD TO G.J. COLES BEING LISTED AS A FOREIGN-OWNED COMPANY.

USICA BECAME INVOLVED WITH A REPORT PUBLISHED TOWARDS THE END OF THE WEEK IN THE AGE MELBOURNE, ON AN ALLEGED ADVERTISEMENT FOR ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL, LAUDING THE ROSE OF US-SUPPLIED BRONCO OV-10C AIRCRAFT BEING USED BY INDONESIA AGAINST FRETELIN FORCES IN TIMOR. USICA'S INVOLVEMENT STEMMED FROM THE FACT THAT RECENTLY AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY USICA DENYING THE PRESENCE OF US CIVILIAN OR MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE INDONESIAN FORCES IN TIMOR. THE PUBLICATION OF THE ADVERTISEMENT SUPPLIED TO THE PAPER BY FRETELIN REPRESENTATIVES IN THIS COUNTRY SOUGHT TO DISCREDIT THE US POSITION AND ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL. SUBSEQUENT INQUIRIES REVEALED THE ADVERTISEMENT TO BE A CLEVER BUT TRANSPARENT ATTEMPT TO ALTER AN ADVERTISEMENT OF THE COMPANY BY INDIVIDUALS OPPOSED TO THE INDONESIAN PRESENCE IN TIMOR. THE SUBSEQUENT CONDEMNATION BY THE EMBASSY OF THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED ON A NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS TELEVISION PROGRAM EXAMINING THE STORY.

PROGRAMMING:

1. THIS YEAR'S SECOND BPAO CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN SYDNEY JULY 24-26 IN WHICH ALL USICA OFFICERS FROM BRANCHES AND CANBERRA PARTICIPATED. TWO NEW OFFICERS, BPAO CHARLES MCGINLEY FROM PERTH AND BPAO MORGAN LIDDICK FROM MELBOURNE JOINED IN FOR THE FIRST TIME. WHILE THE CONFERENCE FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON THE POST INSPECTION NEXT MONTH, THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS ON PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY, COORDINATION, AND EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES.

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2. AMSPEC MELVILLE ULMER'S PROGRAM IN SYDNEY, BRIEF THOUGH IT WAS, REACHED A SIGNIFICANT AUDIENCE. ON JULY 20 HE HAD AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH DR. DON STAMMERS, A KEY OFFICIAL AT THE RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA AND HIS STAFF. ON FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 21, ULMER ADDRESSED TWELVE REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT, ACADEMICS, BUSINESSMEN AND THE MEDIA ON "ECONOMIC DECISION-MAKING IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT" AT THE AMERICAN CENTER. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A LIVELY DISCUSSION, INCLUDING SOME FRIENDLY DISAGREEMENT.

3. BECAUSE WE DID NOT RECEIVE THE PIERRE CLERK EXHIBIT ON TIME, WE HAD TO CANCEL THE FORMAL OPENING AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE. HOWEVER, A PRESS PREVIEW WAS HELD ON JULY 20, IN ADDITION TO AN

EARLIER DISCUSSION PROGRAM HELD AT USICA SYDNEY. THE EXHIBIT
OPENED AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE'S EXHIBITION HALL FROM FRIDAY
JULY 21, ATTRACTING GOOD WEEKEND CROWDS INCLUDING MANY STUDENTS.
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4. IN CANBERRA, WHILE THE THREE USICA OFFICERS WERE IN SYDNEY
MEETING THE BPAO'S, THE EMBASSY ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELLOR MR.
KIRBY HOSTED AND LED DISCUSSIONS AT TWO VERY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS
IN THE CANBERRA AMERICAN CENTER. SIX OFFICIALS FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT VIEWED AND DISCUSSED VTR'S
"ENERGY AND THE DOLLAR" AND "THE POTENTIAL OF SOLAR ENERGY". AT
THE SECOND PROGRAM, THE RECENTLY RECEIVED VTR SERIES "VIEWPOINT:
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES" WAS SEEN BY A SELECT GROUP OF A
DOZEN HIGH OFFICIALS IN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OF PRIME
MINISTER AND CABINET, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TRADE AND RESOURCES, AND
PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND TWO BANK ECONOMISTS. A LIVELY EXCHANGE OF
IDEAS CONTINUED FOR OVER ONE HOUR FOLLOWING THE "VIEWPOINT" VTR'S.
ASSISTING MR. KIRBY IN THIS DISCUSSION WAS THE FIRST SECRETARY,
ECON/COMMERCIAL AND THE U.S. AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE.
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